

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-23 cancelled without prejudice.

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24. (new) A dielectrically impeded discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel having electrodes and two at least partially parallel vessel walls, at least one electrode being separated from the interior of the discharge vessel by a dielectric;
- a spacer made from an optically transparent insulating material and having a spherical shape, the spacer having an optically diffuse surface and being arranged inside the discharge vessel between the two vessel walls and in contact with the two vessel walls via bearing surfaces; and
- a hemisphere of the spacer being coated with a fluorescent material, the hemisphere being oriented in such a way that its pole lies inside a bearing surface.
25. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein the coating of fluorescent material is at least thinner on the bearing surface.
26. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein at least a portion of the surface of the spacer has microstructures, the microstructures being in the form of prisms or pyramids.
27. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein at least a portion of the surface of the spacer has an anti-reflection interference layer.
28. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein at least one bearing surface of the spacer is connected to a vessel wall by a glass solder containing a white pigment.
29. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 28 wherein the white pigment is rutile (TiO_2) and the proportion of the white pigment in the glass solder is in the range from approximately 1% by weight to 10% by weight.
30. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein the diffuse surface is implemented by frosting.
31. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 24 wherein the diffuse surface is implemented by a thin frosted-white colored layer.

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32. (new) A dielectrically impeded discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel having electrodes and two at least partially parallel vessel walls, at least one electrode being separated from the interior of the discharge vessel by a dielectric; and

a spacer in the form of a column made from an optically transparent insulating material and having a cruciform or star-shaped cross section, the spacer having an optically diffuse surface and being arranged inside the discharge vessel between the two vessel walls and in contact with the two vessel walls via bearing surfaces.

33. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 32 wherein the optically diffuse surface comprises at least one of the bearing surfaces.

34. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 32 wherein the diffuse surface is implemented by frosting.

35. (new) The discharge lamp according to claim 32 wherein the diffuse surface is implemented by a thin frosted-white colored layer.
